



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FISCAL YEAR 2010

**HOMELAND SECURITY NATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAM (HSNTP) – SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION TRAINING (STT)**

GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION KIT

MARCH 2010



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Title of Opportunity: Homeland Security National Training Program (HSNTP) – Surface Transportation Training (STT)

Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-10-NPD-005-000-02

Federal Agency Name: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Announcement Type: Initial

Dates: Completed applications must be submitted **no later than 11:59 PM EST, April 14, 2010.**

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PART I.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA both leads and supports the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Homeland Security National Training Program (HSNTP) – Surface Transportation Training (STT) provides funds to support nationwide surface transportation training initiatives while furthering the mission of FEMA. The program will award funds to a single, competitively selected applicant in the form of a cooperative agreement. Applicants will propose to design, develop, and deliver training content while supporting Federal, State, local, and tribal jurisdictions in accordance with FEMA doctrine and approved Homeland Security Strategies. Funding for this year's solicitation is authorized by *The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010* (Public Law 111-83).

FEMA is committed to supporting these applicants during the proposal submission process. The purpose of this guidance and application kit is to provide:

1. An overview of the Fiscal Year 2010 HSNTP-STT
2. Award information
3. Listing of eligible applicants
4. Application kit and proposal requirements
5. Program and submission tools needed to apply for program funding

Federal Investment Strategy

The HSNTP-STT is an important part of the Administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen homeland security preparedness. The HSNTP-STT supports objectives addressed in a series of post 9/11 laws, strategy documents, plans, and Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPDs), including the National Preparedness Guidelines. The Guidelines are an all-hazards vision regarding the Nation's four core preparedness objectives: to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and/or catastrophic events.

The Guidelines define a vision of what to accomplish and a set of tools—including training program grant investments—to forge a unified national consensus about what to do and how to work together at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels. The Guidelines outline 15 scenarios that form the basis of much of the Federal exercise and training regimen. In addition, it identifies 37 critical target capabilities that DHS/FEMA and its Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector partners are making the focus of key investments.

DHS/FEMA expects the FY 2010 HSNTF-STT recipient to be familiar with the national preparedness architecture and to incorporate elements of this architecture into their training program planning, development, and delivery to the degree practicable.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/publications>.

Funding Priorities

This year, an important focus area has been identified for applicants to use in the development of their application and full proposal. Applicants may submit only one application/full proposal, which will undergo a competitive peer review process, used to recommend and ultimately select one award.

In FY 2010, the emphasis on the development and delivery of courses will be in the following focus area: Surface Transportation Emergency Preparedness and Response Training. The development of training programs in support of surface transportation counter Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) operations is expected to include threats, vulnerabilities, and prioritized organizational immediate actions and response. Also, the proposed program must focus on developing formal training for threat and vulnerability assessment processes.

Training programs should address hardening facilities and conveyances against acts of terrorism through the use of innovative techniques including: design/redesign of facilities and assets, blast mitigation, and barrier protection. Additionally, full proposals will address management planning tools for counter IED operations and evacuations, to include how to develop asset/conveyance specific standard operating procedures.

Each applicant is expected to use a combination of readily available resources and its working knowledge of the subject matter to refine the focus area and to shape the overall training program in keeping with current national policies, doctrines, and priorities. Proposed training must be consistent with applicable Federal regulations, policies, and guidance that govern the focus area.

The training program developed and delivered under the FY 2010 HSNTF-STT must support the FEMA all-hazards mission, and should address several key areas in order to ensure continued federal support. These priority areas include the use of existing training mechanisms, linking training to exercise activities, incorporating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Response Framework (NRF) components, utilizing a national delivery approach, and delivering curriculum via an

integrated, collaborative approach. The following section provides recommendations in support of these priorities.

Use Existing Training Mechanisms

Training must not duplicate training provided by the States or other national training providers; as such, the use of existing mechanisms is recommended to coordinate training development and delivery, and ensure that training requirements adapt to meet evolving needs and known target capability deficiencies. In order to meet needs at the State, local, and regional levels training priorities in the State Homeland Security Strategies must be leveraged to develop courses to fulfill these needs and complement existing training.

Link Training and Exercises to Align Resources

Linking training and exercises is imperative for ensuring that course participants are adequately trained to perform the tasks of each exercise and in real life events. By aligning existing and developing training with the target capabilities, courses can be linked to the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Programs (HSEEP), National, State and Regional Exercises and evaluated based on the effectiveness of the training.

Incorporate the National Preparedness Curriculum

Training programs must incorporate the tenets of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF), where appropriate, to ensure consistency with Federal statutes and State requirements. By aligning the design and development of training curricula to DHS and FEMA policy, this approach will reinforce the foundational doctrine that delineates the manner in which the Nation prepares for mass consequence events.

Use a 'Blended' Delivery Approach

Training programs that support the Nation's preparedness have long relied on classroom instruction and practical exercises; however HSNTTP training programs must be innovative and distinct in comparison to current training offered by other Federal, State, and local training academies. To ensure that HSNTTP training courses are accessible to as many key public and private officials with homeland security responsibilities throughout the Nation as possible, a "blended learning" approach is suggested. This "blended learning" approach encourages traditional classroom instruction with creative uses of web-based and computer-based training, simulations, toolkits, job aids, and/or other leave behind materials.

Training National in Scope

Delivery of training programs will incorporate geographic diversity when offering courses, including providing training at the State, local, tribal and territorial levels across the 56 states and territories.

Overall, the FY 2010 HSNTTP-STT must support the training needs of Federal, State, local and tribal emergency responder communities and consist of specialized training that addresses current surface transportation training gaps. Each applicant is expected

to design, develop, and consistently deliver high quality homeland security curricula to meet the demand of preparing State and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect, respond to, recover from, and mitigate, acts of terrorism and/or catastrophic events. Training should be designed for and delivered to appropriate State and local personnel, for which the precise audience for training should be identified by applicants in their full proposal.

PART II.

AWARD INFORMATION

A. Authorizing Statutes

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-83) and the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, as amended, 6 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*

B. Period of Performance

The period of performance of this award is 12 months. Extensions to the period of performance will be considered only through formal requests to FEMA with specific and compelling justifications why an extension is required.

C. Available Funding

In FY 2010, the total amount of funds distributed under this grant will be \$4,800,000 to develop and deliver an innovative training program of national scope that meets emerging surface transportation training needs in our Nation's communities. Funding will be provided in the form of a cooperative agreement directly to the selected applicant. Program authority and responsibility under these agreements resides with FEMA. Once an award is made, FEMA will work with the individual recipient to review and refine work plans to ensure program goals and objectives can be effectively accomplished.

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

The HSNTP-STT is an open and competitive solicitation, available to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; national associations, organizations and for-profits with a demonstrable expertise relevant to the focus area for which grant funding is being requested; non-profit higher education institutions with existing programs which address the focus area for which grant funding is requested; and non-profits, including community and faith-based organizations, with a demonstrable expertise relevant to the focus area for which grant funding is requested. Eligibility under the FY 2010 HSNTP-STT is contingent upon proper submission and approval of the online application described in Part II Application Kit & Program Requirements. The deadline for applications is **11:59 PM EST, April 14, 2010**.

B. Cost Sharing

There is no required cost sharing, matching, or cost participation for the FY 2010 HSNTP-STT.

C. Restrictions

Please see Part IV.D. for Management & Administration (M&A) limits and allowable/unallowable costs guidance.

D. Other

National Incident Management System Implementation Compliance

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*, the adoption of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a requirement to receive Federal assistance, through grants, contracts, and other activities. The NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all levels of government, tribal nations, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector partners to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

Federal FY 2009 NIMS implementation must be considered prior to allocation of any Federal awards in FY 2010. The primary grantee/administrator of FY 2010 HSNTP award funds is responsible for determining if sub-awardees have demonstrated sufficient progress in NIMS implementation to disburse awards.

PART IV.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Address to Request Application Package

FEMA makes all funding opportunities available through the common electronic “storefront” [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), accessible on the Internet at <http://www.grants.gov>. If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions please call the [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select “Apply for Grants,” and then select “Download Application Package.” Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this announcement. Select “Download Application Package,” and then follow the prompts to download the application package. To download the instructions, go to “Download Application Package” and select “Instructions.”

B. Content and Form of Application

1. **Application via www.grants.gov.** All applicants must file their applications using the Administration’s common electronic “storefront” - www.grants.gov. Eligible grantees must apply for funding through this portal, accessible on the Internet at www.grants.gov.

The application must be completed and submitted using www.grants.gov after Central Contractor Registry (CCR) registration is confirmed. The on-line application includes the following required forms and submissions:

- HSNTF Program Proposal, in full (30-page limit) – Submit as an *attachment*
- Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Standard Form 424A, Budget Information (Non-construction)
- Standard Form 424B Standard Assurances (Non-construction)
- Standard *Form LLL*, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if the grantee has engaged or intends to engage in lobbying activities)
- Grants.gov (GG) Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- FEMA Form 20-16C, Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements.

The program title listed in the CFDA is “State and Local Homeland Security Training Program.” The CFDA number is **97.005**. When completing the online application, applicants should identify their submissions as new, non-construction applications.

2. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

The applicant must provide a DUNS number with their application. This number is a required field within www.grants.gov and for CCR Registration.

Organizations should verify that they have a DUNS number, or take the steps necessary to obtain one, as soon as possible. Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at (866) 705-5711.

3. Central Contractor Registration (CCR). The application process also involves an updated and current registration by the applicant registration, which must be confirmed at <http://www.ccr.gov>.

Note: Registering for a CCR takes a minimum of 5-10 business days to validate. This process must be completed for all new participants. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Completed applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov **no later than 11:59 PM EST, April 14, 2010**. Late applications will neither be considered nor reviewed. Upon successful submission, a confirmation e-mail message will be sent with a [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) tracking number, which is needed to track the status of the application.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order 12372 requires applicants from State and local units of government or other organizations providing services within a State to submit a copy of the application to the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC), if one exists, and if this program has been selected for review by the State. Applicants must contact their State SPOC to determine if the program has been selected for State review. Executive Order 12372 can be referenced at <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>. The names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed on OMB's home page available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

E. Funding Restrictions

DHS grant funds may only be used for the purpose set forth in the grant, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or

intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity.

Pre-award costs are allowable only with the written consent of DHS/FEMA and if they are included in the award agreement.

Federal employees are prohibited from serving in any capacity (paid or unpaid) on any proposal submitted under this program. Federal employees may not receive funds under this award.

Allowable costs include:

Construction Costs: Construction costs are not allowable under this solicitation.

Equipment: Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high cost items and those subject to rapid technical advances. Large equipment purchases must be identified and explained. For more information regarding property management standards for equipment, please reference 2 CFR Part 215, located at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/2004/040511_grants.pdf.

Fringe Benefits: Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits on overtime hours are limited to FICA, Workman's Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a Federally approved indirect cost rate. A copy of the rate approval (a fully executed, negotiated agreement) will be required prior to an award. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant Federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct costs categories. Applicant must identify their negotiated indirect cost rate.

Foreign Travel: Foreign travel is not an allowable cost under this solicitation unless approved otherwise by the managing Federal agency.

F. Other Submission Requirements

As a reminder, all HSNTF-STT recipients must:

1. Obtain/possess a valid DUNS number
2. Complete/update a valid CCR registration
3. Complete www.grants.gov application requirements
4. Complete and upload a HSNTF-STT Program Proposal in the required format
5. Submit only one online application prior to submission deadline

If you have general inquiries regarding proposal submissions, please contact the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.

PART V.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Review Criteria

Proposals must clearly demonstrate the applicant's ability to design, develop and deliver a training program of national scope which provides tailored, surface transportation training to first responders and/or citizens. The HSNTF-STT funds must enhance the Nation's capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate, risks posed by incidents of national significance, including acts of terrorism and/or catastrophic events in accordance with program guidelines, and guidance from DHS/FEMA.

Below is a full proposal template that establishes the required headers and criteria of a reviewable 30-page full proposal. This template helps ensure that submissions are organized in a consistent manner and key data requirements are addressed.

Applicants must use this template to prepare and submit an electronic version of their full proposal as part of their online application kit. In addition to adhering to the full proposal template, applicants must comply with strict format guidelines. The full proposal must: 1) Be created and submitted in Microsoft Word (*.doc, *.docx) or text (*.txt); 2) Not exceed thirty (30) double-spaced pages, in 12-point font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins. Single-spaced full proposals (i.e. the equivalent of 60 double-spaced pages) will be rejected. The title page/executive summary and the budget sections are included in the 30-page limit. No additional attachments will be accepted. Failure to address these formatting elements will result in the rejection of the full proposal from consideration.

It is important that applicants describe an innovative, one-year, national-in-scope training program in their full proposal, directly in alignment with the surface transportation training focus area. Full proposals should clearly identify and explain how training will be accessible to appropriate State and local personnel for effective delivery.

Subject matter experts participating in the full proposal peer review will evaluate each full proposal against the baseline criteria below. Use the sections as a guide to writing and submitting a full proposal, but adhere to the 30 double-spaced page limit using Times New Roman 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Develop full proposals using the selection criteria guidance provided below, by section, and ensure that you include all information requested.

Section I: Title Page / Executive Summary

- *Training Program Title:* Provide a title for your proposed training program.
- *Organization Identifier:* Provide the legal name and address of your organization and the primary point of contact.
- *Total Budget:* Provide the total dollar amount of your application, as detailed in the budget narrative.
- *Total Number to be Trained:* Provide a projected total number of persons your program will train and the proposed modes of delivery (instructor led, web-based, or combination of delivery modes)
- *Executive Summary:* In 400 words or less, describe the overall purpose of your training program and how it is unique, innovative, and fulfills HSNTF-STT guidance requirements.

Section II: Description of Training

- Provide a clear description of the proposed national training program and describe how the training will address the surface transportation focus area
- Describe the number of courses that will be developed, and if more than one, describe how they interrelate or build upon each other
- Describe the length of the course(s) including the number of times you propose to deliver the course(s)
- Explain the learning objective for the course(s)
- Clearly identify and describe the target audience (disciplines) and discuss your strategy for reaching out to large numbers of these participants across the nation - Specify how you will identify and recruit individuals to attend your training including the sources, and what you will do to ensure that you reach a national audience
- Describe the course prerequisites, specifically general skills and knowledge required of the audience for maximum learning
- Describe what training level your course will be geared
 - Awareness - Designed for responders who require the skills necessary to recognize and report a potential catastrophic incident or who are likely to witness or investigate an event involving the use of hazardous/explosive devices
 - Performance - Designed for first responders who perform tasks during the initial response to a catastrophic event, such as safeguarding the at-risk public, rescuing victims, decontaminating victims, etc
 - Management/Planning – Designed for managers who build plans and coordinate the response to a mass consequence manmade or natural event
- Identify the number of people you will train during the project and specify how many will be training in each delivery method (i.e. classroom, web, etc.)

- Describe what instructional methods for a blended learning strategy you will use (classroom, web-based, etc.) for each course and why
 - Describe the sequence and how will the methods be combined to form a cohesive training program for the target audience

Section III: Analysis of Need

- Provide the sources analyzed and reviewed if a needs analysis was completed to identify the need for this particular training
 - Describe the results of your analysis including the gaps identified that point to a need for this particular training
 - If a needs analysis was not conducted, describe how you arrived at the need for the particular training that you propose, and what analysis you will do to verify the need for this particular type of training
 - Describe any training that currently exists that addresses the training that you propose

Section IV: Training Program that is National in Scope

- Identify the overall approach that will be taken to develop and deliver your training program to participants on a national level – (proposals will not be considered that do not have a viable delivery strategy incorporating national coverage – the delivery rollout can be implemented regionally to leverage expertise, share resources, and enhance training capacity, but will not consider proposals with limited reach nationally)
- Describe how your program will translate to participants nationally (e.g. a participant in Kansas could utilize the same information as a participant in Maine)
- Describe the delivery method of the course(s) (i.e. mobile, residential, on-line), and if on-line, describe the number of sites and site locations

Section V: Capacity to Deliver Training that is National in Scope

- Provide an overview of past successes in similar efforts
- Describe technical expertise of each proposed staff member relevant to the issue area
- Describe the staffing plan you propose that demonstrated your organization's capacity to support a large scale training effort
- Describe the efforts you propose to sustain the training program beyond the federal funding you have received for the development and delivery of this training program
- Describe any partnerships you will enter into and how they will strengthen your training program

Section VI: Timeline

- Develop a timeline with the following major milestones. Start with Month “0” and project out Month 1, 2, 3, etc. through to Month 12. At a minimum, include the following elements
 - Hiring or tasking of staff
 - Analysis phase
 - Design phase
 - Development phase
 - Course pilot (You are required to conduct a minimum of three pilot courses and have your course reviewed and approved by subject matter experts. Applicant should allow 2 months for this effort)
 - Implementation (course delivery)
- Provide a justification for remaining in development phase longer than 6 months from onset of program

Section VII: Budget Narrative

- Provide a budget justification to include the following areas:
 - Divide the budget between development and delivery costs and explain how your budget supports each. Development includes everything prior to the delivery of your course(s)
 - Explain what percentage is devoted to development versus delivery
- Explain the cost per student for delivery (the portion of the budget devoted to delivery divided by the number of students you project will be trained) – Project the number to be trained as accurately as possible as this application may become the basis for deliverables if your application is approved for an award
- When providing justification of the budget:
 - Ensure it is directly related to and supports the activities described in the proposal and that the required budget categories are used in the proposal (personnel, fringe, travel, equipment, supplies, consultants/contracts, other costs, and indirect costs, etc.)
 - Ensure the budget is complete, allowable, and cost effective in accomplishing the tasks in the proposal
 - Ensure the budget supports the total cost of the development and delivery (numbers proposed to train) reflected in the proposal
- Provide a detailed budget by task and a summary budget aggregating task costs into the categories of personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, consultants/contracts, other costs, indirect costs, and the total budget
 - **Personnel:** Indicate the total projected salary and wages for all project personnel. Compensation paid for employees engaged in activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization.

- **Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits on overtime hours are limited to FICA, Workman's Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.
- **Travel:** Provide the total projected cost for travel. Applicants should determine costs by the projected number of trips X the number of people traveling X an average cost for travel and per diem (airfare, lodging, meals). Travel for development of training and delivery of training should be separated in the detailed budget, but be included as a single total in the summary budget. Travel at the request of the program office should be detailed under travel for development of training.
- **Equipment:** Provide the total projected cost of non-expendable items that need to be purchased. Non-expendable equipment is tangible property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Organization's own capitalization policy and threshold amount for classification of equipment may be used. Expendable items should be included either in the "Supplies" category or in the "Other" category. Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high cost items and those subject to rapid technical advances. Rented or leased equipment costs should be listed in the "Contracts" category. Large equipment purchases must be identified and explained. For more information regarding property management standards for equipment, please reference 2 CFR Part 215, located at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/2004/040511_grants.pdf.
- **Supplies:** Provide the total projected cost of supplies (e.g. office supplies, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books and hand held tape recorders). Organization's own capitalization policy and threshold amount for classification of supplies may be used. Generally, supplies include any materials that are expendable or consumed during the course of the project.
- **Construction Costs:** Construction costs are not allowable under this solicitation.
- **Consultants/Contracts:** Provide the total projected cost of consultants and contracts. The type of consultant/contract must be identified and justified.
- **Other Costs:** Provide a total projected cost of miscellaneous items (e.g., rent, reproduction, telephone, janitorial or security services, and investigative or confidential funds).
- **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a Federally approved indirect cost rate. A copy of the rate approval (a fully executed, negotiated agreement) will be required prior to an award. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant Federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct costs categories. Applicant must identify their negotiated indirect cost rate.
- **Total Budget:** The total dollar value by category for all activities.

Note: Funds will not be made available for obligation, expenditure, or drawdown until the applicant's budget and budget narrative have been approved by FEMA.

The applicant must provide a detailed budget for the funds requested. The detailed budget must be submitted with the grant application as a file attachment within www.grants.gov. The budget must be complete, reasonable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed project. The budget should provide the basis of computation of all project-related costs, any appropriate narrative, and a detailed justification of M&A costs.

B. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

FEMA will evaluate and act on applications following the close of the application period, consistent with the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010* (Public Law 111-83). Awards will be made on or before September 30, 2010.

PART VI.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notice of Award

Upon approval of an application, the grant will be awarded to the grantee. The date that this is done is the “award date.” Notification of award approval is made through the Grants Management System (GMS). Once an award has been approved, a notice is sent to the authorized grant official. Follow the directions in the notification to accept your award documents. The authorized grant official should carefully read the award and special condition documents. If you do not receive a notification, please contact your FEMA Program Office for your award number. Once you have the award number, contact the GMS Help Desk at (888) 549-9901, option three, to obtain the username and password associated with the new award.

The period of performance is 12 months and begins on the Project Period/Budget Period start date listed in the award package. Any unobligated funds will be de-obligated at the end of the close-out period. Extensions to the period of performance will be considered only through formal requests to FEMA with specific and compelling justifications why an extension is required. All extension requests must be submitted to FEMA at least 60 days prior to the end of the period of performance and must address:

- Reason for delay;
- Current status of the activity/activities;
- Approved period of performance termination date and new project completion date;
- Remaining available funds, both Federal and non-Federal;
- Budget outlining how remaining Federal and non-Federal funds will be expended;
- Plan for completion including milestones and timeframes for achieving each milestone and the position/person responsible for implementing the plan for completion; and
- Certification that the activity/activities will be completed within the extended period of performance without any modification to the original Statement of Work approved by FEMA.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient(s) must, in addition to the assurances made as part of the application, comply and require each of its subcontractors employed in the completion of the project to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, executive orders, OMB circulars, terms and conditions of the award, and the approved application.

- 1. Standard Financial Requirements.** The grantee and any subgrantee(s) shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. A non-exclusive list of regulations commonly applicable to DHS grants are listed below:

1.1 – Administrative Requirements.

- 44 CFR Part 13, *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments*
- 2 CFR Part 215, *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations* (OMB Circular A-110)

1.2 – Cost Principles.

- 2 CFR Part 225, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian tribal Governments* (OMB Circular A-87)
- 2 CFR Part 220, *Cost Principles for Educational Institutions* (OMB Circular A-21)
- 2 CFR Part 230, *Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations* (OMB Circular A-122)
- 48 CFR 31.2, Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR), *Contracts with Commercial Organizations*

1.3 – Audit Requirements.

- OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*

1.4 – Duplication of Benefits. There may not be a duplication of any Federal assistance by governmental entities, per 2 CFR Part 225, Basic Guidelines Section C.3 (c), which states: Any cost allocable to a particular Federal award or cost objective under the principles provided for in this Authority may not be charged to other Federal awards to overcome fund deficiencies, to avoid restrictions imposed by law or terms of the Federal awards, or for other reasons. However, this prohibition would not preclude governmental units from shifting costs that are allowable under two or more awards in accordance with existing program agreements. Non-governmental entities are also subject to this prohibition per 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230 and 48 CFR 31.2.

- 2. Payment.** DHS/FEMA uses the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment to Recipients. To enroll in the DD/EFT, the Recipient must complete a Standard Form 1199A, Direct Deposit Form, found at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/eft/1199a.pdf>.

FEMA utilizes the FEMA Payment and Reporting System (PARS) for payments made under this program (<https://isource.fema.gov/sf269/execute/LogIn?sawContentMessage=true>)

2.1 – Advance Payment. In accordance with Treasury regulations at 31 CFR Part 205, the Recipient shall maintain procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and the disbursement of said funds (See 44 CFR Part 13.21(i)) regarding payment of interest earned on advances. In order to request an advance, the Recipient must maintain or demonstrate the willingness and ability to maintain procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from DHS and expenditure and disbursement by the Recipient. When these requirements are not met, the Recipient will be required to be on a reimbursement for costs incurred method.

NOTE: FUNDS WILL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRED UPON ISSUANCE OF THE GRANT. GRANTEES MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR ADVANCE/REIMBURSEMENT (SF-270) IN ORDER FOR THE FUNDS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GRANTEE’S ACCOUNT.

- 3. Non-supplanting Requirement.** Grant funds will be used to supplement existing funds, and will not replace (supplant) funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. Applicants or grantees may be required to supply documentation certifying that a reduction in non-Federal resources occurred for reasons other than the receipt or expected receipt of Federal funds.

4. Technology Requirements.

4.1 – National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). FEMA requires all grantees to use the latest NIEM specifications and guidelines regarding the use of Extensible Markup Language (XML) for all grant awards. Further information about the required use of NIEM specifications and guidelines is available at <http://www.niem.gov>.

4.2 – Geospatial Guidance. Geospatial technologies capture, store, analyze, transmit, and/or display location-based information (i.e., information that can be linked to a latitude and longitude). FEMA encourages grantees to align any geospatial activities with the guidance available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/grants>.

4.3 – 28 CFR Part 23 Guidance. FEMA requires that any information technology system funded or supported by these funds comply with 28 CFR Part 23, *Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies*, if this regulation is determined to be applicable.

5. Administrative Requirements.

5.1 – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FEMA recognizes that much of the information submitted in the course of applying for funding under this program or provided in the course of its grant management activities may be considered law enforcement sensitive or otherwise important to national security interests. While

this information under Federal control is subject to requests made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, all determinations concerning the release of information of this nature are made on a case-by-case basis by the FEMA FOIA Office, and may likely fall within one or more of the available exemptions under the Act. The applicant is encouraged to consult its own State and local laws and regulations regarding the release of information, which should be considered when reporting sensitive matters in the grant application, needs assessment and strategic planning process. The grantee should be familiar with the regulations governing Sensitive Security Information (49 CFR Part 1520), as it may provide additional protection to certain classes of homeland security information.

5.2 – Compliance with Federal civil rights laws and regulations. The grantee is required to comply with Federal civil rights laws and regulations. Specifically, the grantee is required to provide assurances as a condition for receipt of Federal funds that its programs and activities comply with the following:

- *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §2000 et seq. – Provides that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI also extends protection to persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). (42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.)
- *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*, as amended, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq. – Provides that no person, *on the basis of sex*, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §794 – Provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, shall, *solely* by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subject to discrimination in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- *The Age Discrimination Act of 1975*, as amended, 20 U.S.C. §6101 et seq. – Provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Grantees must comply with all regulations, guidelines, and standards adopted under the above statutes. The grantee is also required to submit information, as

required, to the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties concerning its compliance with these laws and their implementing regulations.

5.3 – Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons. Recipients of FEMA financial assistance are required to comply with several Federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, natural origin, and sex in the delivery of services. National origin discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of limited English proficiency. To ensure compliance with Title VI, recipients are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to their programs. Meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral and written translation, where necessary. The grantee is encouraged to consider the need for language services for LEP persons served or encountered both in developing their proposals and budgets and in conducting their programs and activities. Reasonable costs associated with providing meaningful access for LEP individuals are considered allowable program costs. For additional information, see <http://www.lep.gov>.

5.4 – Certifications and Assurances. Certifications and assurances regarding the following apply:

- *Lobbying.* 31 U.S.C. §1352, *Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions.* – Prohibits the use of Federal funds in lobbying members and employees of Congress, as well as employees of Federal agencies, with respect to the award or amendment of any Federal grant, cooperative agreement, contract, or loan. FEMA and DHS have codified restrictions upon lobbying at 44 CFR Part 18 and 6 CFR Part 9. (Refer to form included in application package.)
- *Drug-free Workplace Act*, as amended, 41 U.S.C. §701 et seq. – Requires the recipient to publish a statement about its drug-free workplace program and give a copy of the statement to each employee (including consultants and temporary personnel) who will be involved in award-supported activities at any site where these activities will be carried out. Also, place(s) where work is being performed under the award (i.e., street address, city, state and zip code) must be maintained on file. The recipient must notify the Grants Officer of any employee convicted of a violation of a criminal drug statute that occurs in the workplace. For additional information, see 44 CFR Part 17.
- *Debarment and Suspension.* – Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 provide protection from fraud, waste, and abuse by debarring or suspending those persons that deal in an irresponsible manner with the Federal government. The recipient must certify that they are not debarred

or suspended from receiving Federal assistance. For additional information, see 2 CFR Part 3000.

- *Federal Debt Status.* – The recipient may not be delinquent in the repayment of any Federal debt. Examples of relevant debt include delinquent payroll or other taxes, audit disallowances, and benefit overpayments. (See OMB Circular A-129) (Refer to SF-424, item number 17.)
- *Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990.* – In accordance with section 6 of the *Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990*, 15 U.S.C. §2225a, the recipient agrees to ensure that all conference, meeting, convention, or training space funded in whole or in part with Federal funds, complies with the fire prevention and control guidelines of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, 15 U.S.C. §2225.

Grantees must comply with all regulations, guidelines, and standards adopted under the above statutes.

5.5 – Integrating individuals with disabilities into emergency planning.

Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all aspects of emergency mitigation, planning, response, and recovery by entities receiving financial funding from FEMA. In addition, Executive Order 13347, *Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness* signed in July 2004, requires the Federal government to support safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism. Executive Order 13347 requires the Federal government to encourage consideration of the needs of individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments in emergency preparedness planning.

FEMA has several resources available to assist emergency managers in planning and response efforts related to people with disabilities and to ensure compliance with Federal civil rights laws:

- **Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 301 (CPG-301): Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations:** CPG-301 is designed to aid tribal, State, territorial, and local governments in planning for individuals with special needs. CPG-301 outlines special needs considerations for: Developing Informed Plans; Assessments and Registries; Emergency Public Information/Communication; Sheltering and Mass Care; Evacuation; Transportation; Human Services/Medical Management; Congregate Settings; Recovery; and Training and Exercises. CPG-301 is available at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2008/301.pdf>.

- **Guidelines for Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities in Disaster:** The Guidelines synthesize the array of existing accessibility requirements into a user friendly tool for use by response and recovery personnel in the field. The Guidelines are available at <http://www.fema.gov/oe/reference/>.
- **Disability and Emergency Preparedness Resource Center:** A web-based “Resource Center” that includes dozens of technical assistance materials to assist emergency managers in planning and response efforts related to people with disabilities. The “Resource Center” is available at <http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov>.
- **Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) resource page on Emergency Planning for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs:** A true one-stop resource shop for planners at all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities, the resource page provides more than 250 documents, including lessons learned, plans, procedures, policies, and guidance, on how to include citizens with disabilities and other special needs in all phases of the emergency management cycle.

LLIS.gov is available to emergency response providers and homeland security officials from the Federal, State, and local levels. To access the resource page, log onto <http://www.LLIS.gov> and click on Emergency Planning for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs under Featured Topics. If you meet the eligibility requirements for accessing Lessons Learned Information Sharing, you can request membership by registering online.

5.6 – Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Compliance. FEMA is required to consider the potential impacts to the human and natural environment of projects proposed for FEMA grant funding. FEMA, through its Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Program, engages in a review process to ensure that FEMA-funded activities comply with various Federal laws including: *National Environmental Policy Act*, *National Historic Preservation Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, the *Clean Water Act*, and Executive Orders on Floodplains (11988), Wetlands (11990), Environmental Justice (12898). The goal of these compliance requirements is to protect our nation’s water, air, coastal, wildlife, agricultural, historical, and cultural resources, as well as to minimize potential adverse effects to low-income and minority populations.

The grantee shall provide all relevant information to FEMA to ensure compliance with applicable Federal EHP requirements. Any project with the potential to impact natural or biological resources or historic properties cannot be initiated until FEMA has completed the required EHP review. In addition to a detailed project description that describes what is to be done with the grant funds, how it

will be done, and where it will be done, grantees shall provide detailed information about the project (where applicable), including, but not limited to, the following:

- Project location (i.e., exact street address or map coordinates)
- Total extent of ground disturbance and vegetation clearing
- Extent of modification of existing structures
- Construction equipment to be used, staging areas, etc.
- Year that any affected buildings or structures were built
- Natural, biological, and/or cultural resources present within the project area and vicinity, including wetlands, floodplains, geologic resources, threatened or endangered species, or National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible properties, etc.
- Visual documentation such as good quality, color and labeled site and facility photographs, project plans, aerial photos, maps, etc.
- Alternative ways considered to implement the project (not applicable to procurement of mobile and portable equipment)

For projects that have the potential to impact sensitive resources, FEMA must consult with other Federal, State, and tribal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Offices, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as other agencies and organizations responsible for the protection and/or management of natural and cultural resources, including Federally-recognized Indian tribes, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. For projects with the potential to have adverse effects on the environment and/or historic properties, FEMA's EHP review process and consultation may result in a substantive agreement between the involved parties outlining how the grantee will avoid the effects, minimize the effects, or, if necessary, compensate for the effects. Grantees who are proposing communication tower projects are encouraged to complete their Federal Communications Commission (FCC) EHP process prior to preparing their EHP review materials for FEMA, and to include their FCC EHP materials with their submission to FEMA. Completing the FCC process first and submitting all relevant EHP documentation to FEMA will help expedite FEMA's review.

Because of the potential for adverse effects to EHP resources or public controversy, some projects may require an additional assessment or report, such as an Environmental Assessment, Biological Assessment, archaeological survey, cultural resources report, wetlands delineation, or other document, as well as a public comment period. Grantees are responsible for the preparation of such documents, as well as for the implementation of any treatment or mitigation measures identified during the EHP review that are necessary to address potential adverse impacts. Grantees may use grant funds toward the costs of preparing such documents. The use of grant funds for mitigation or treatment measures that are not typically allowable expenses will be considered on a case-

by-case basis. Failure of the grantee to meet Federal, State, local and territorial EHP requirements, obtain required permits, and comply with any conditions that may be placed on the project as the result of FEMA's EHP review may jeopardize Federal funding.

Recipients shall not undertake any project without the prior approval of FEMA, and must comply with all conditions placed on the project as the result of the EHP review. Any change to the approved project description will require re-evaluation for compliance with these EHP requirements. If ground disturbing activities occur during project implementation, the recipient must ensure monitoring of ground disturbance, and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, the recipient will immediately cease construction in that area and notify their FEMA Program Office, and the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office. Any projects that have been initiated prior to approval will result in a non-compliance finding and will not be eligible for funding.

For more information on FEMA's EHP requirements, Grantees should refer to FEMA's Information Bulletin #329, *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Requirements for Grants*, available at <http://ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/info329.pdf>. Additional information and resources can also be found at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/ehp-applicant-help.shtm>.

C. Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements must be met throughout the life of the grant (refer to the program guidance and the special conditions found in the award package for a full explanation of these requirements). Any reports or documents prepared as a result of this grant shall be in compliance with Federal "plain English" policies, directives, etc. Please note that PARS contains edits that will prevent access to funds if reporting requirements are not met on a timely basis.

- 1. Federal Financial Report (FFR) – required quarterly.** Obligations and expenditures must be reported on a quarterly basis through the FFR (SF-425), which replaced the SF-269 and SF-272, which is due within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter (e.g., for the quarter ending March 31, the FFR is due no later than April 30). A report must be submitted for every quarter of the period of performance, including partial calendar quarters, as well as for periods where no grant activity occurs. Future awards and fund draw downs may be withheld if these reports are delinquent. The final FFR is due 90 days after the end date of the performance period.

FFRs must be filed according to the process and schedule below:

FFRs must be filed electronically through PARS

Reporting periods and due dates:

- October 1 – December 31; *Due January 30*

- January 1 – March 31; *Due April 30*
- April 1 – June 30; *Due July 30*
- July 1 – September 30; *Due October 30*

- 2. Categorical Assistance Progress Report (CAPR).** Following an award, the awardees will be responsible for providing updated obligation and expenditure information on a regular basis. The CAPR is due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period (July 30 for the reporting period of January 1 through June 30, and on January 30 for the reporting period of July 1 through December 31). Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if these reports are delinquent. The final CAPR is due 90 days after the end date of the award period.

Block #12 of the CAPR should be used to note progress against the proposed project. The grantor agency will provide sufficient information to monitor program implementation and goal achievement. At a minimum, reports should contain the following data: (1) As applicable, the total number of items secured under this grant (e.g., access controls, surveillance, physical enhancements, and vessels) to date, and (2) for other items acquired through this grant, a brief description and total number of items obtained to date. CAPRs must be filed online through the internet at: <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>. Forms and instructions can be found at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm>.

Required submission: CAPR (due semi-annually)

- 3. Financial and Compliance Audit Report.** Recipients that expend \$500,000 or more of Federal funds during their fiscal year are required to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report. The audit must be performed in accordance with GAO's *Government Auditing Standards*, located at <http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm>, and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133/a133.html>. Audit reports are currently due to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse no later than nine months after the end of the recipient's fiscal year. In addition, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Comptroller General of the United States shall have access to any books, documents, and records of recipients of FY 2010 HSNTF assistance for audit and examination purposes, provided that, in the opinion of the Secretary or the Comptroller, these documents are related to the receipt or use of such assistance. The grantee will also give the sponsoring agency or the Comptroller, through any authorized representative, access to, and the right to examine all records, books, papers or documents related to the grant.

The State shall require that sub-grantees comply with the audit requirements set forth in OMB Circular A-133. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that sub-recipient audit reports are received and for resolving any audit findings.

4. **Monitoring.** Grant recipients will be monitored periodically by FEMA staff, both programmatically and financially, to ensure that the project goals, objectives, performance requirements, timelines, milestone completion, budgets, and other related program criteria are being met.

Monitoring will be accomplished through a combination of desk-based reviews and on-site monitoring visits. Monitoring will involve the review and analysis of the financial, programmatic, performance and administrative issues relative to each program and will identify areas where technical assistance and other support may be needed.

The recipient is responsible for monitoring award activities, to include sub-awards, to provide reasonable assurance that the Federal award is administered in compliance with requirements. Responsibilities include the accounting of receipts and expenditures, cash management, maintaining of adequate financial records, and refunding expenditures disallowed by audits.

5. **Grant Close-Out Process.** Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, grantees must submit a final FFR and final progress report detailing all accomplishments throughout the period of performance. After these reports have been reviewed and approved by FEMA, a close-out notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be deobligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for three years from the date of the final FFR. The grantee is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawdown but remain as unliquidated on grantee financial records.

Required submissions: (1) final SF-425, due 90 days from end of grant period; and (2) final progress report, due 90 days from the end of the grant period.

PART VII. FEMA CONTACTS

This Appendix describes several resources that may help applicants in completing an application.

1. **Centralized Scheduling & Information Desk (CSID).** CSID is a non-emergency comprehensive management and information resource developed by DHS for grants stakeholders. CSID provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the Federal, State, and local levels. CSID can be reached by phone at (800) 368-6498 or by e-mail at ASKCSID@dhs.gov, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m. EST.
2. **Grant Programs Directorate (GPD).** FEMA GPD will provide fiscal support, including pre- and post-award administration and technical assistance, to the programs included in this solicitation. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the FEMA Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to ASK-GMD@dhs.gov.
3. **National Exercise Division (NED).** The NED within the FEMA National Preparedness Directorate maintains program management for the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). All questions pertaining to HSEEP may be addressed to hseep@fema.gov or contact the NED at (202) 786-9873.
4. **National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) / National Training and Education Division (NTE-D).** NPD/NTED has the programmatic responsibility for this solicitation action and will also maintain the program management functions and responsibilities throughout the life-cycle of the awarded grant. Point of contact for this action is Russell Tedesco, phone: (202) 786-6104, email: russell.tedesco@fema.gov

PART VIII.

OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. Homeland Security Preparedness Technical Assistance Program (HSPTAP) and Planning Support.** The HSPTAP provides direct support assistance on a first-come, first-served basis (and subject to the availability of funding) to eligible organizations to enhance their capacity and preparedness to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist and all hazard threats. In addition to the risk assessment assistance already being provided, FEMA also offers a variety of other direct support assistance programs.

The HSPTAP also provides access to planning support. The planning support aids jurisdictions by increasing their understanding of the complex issues faced in planning for various hazards and threats. This support includes leveraging subject matter experts from around the country as well as enabling knowledge transfer from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

More information can be found at http://www.fema.gov/about/divisions/pppa_ta.shtm or by e-mailing FEMA-TARequest@fema.gov.

- 2. Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) System.** LLIS is a national, online, secure website that houses a collection of peer-validated lessons learned, best practices, and other relevant homeland security documents. LLIS facilitates improved preparedness nationwide by providing response professionals with access to a wealth of validated front-line expertise on effective planning, training, equipping, and operational practices for homeland security.

The LLIS website also includes a national directory of homeland security officials, as well as an updated list of homeland security exercises, events, and conferences. Additionally, LLIS includes online collaboration tools, including secure email and message boards, where users can exchange information. LLIS uses strong encryption and active site monitoring to protect all information housed on the system. The LLIS website is <http://www.llis.gov>.

- 3. Information Bulletins.** Information Bulletins (IBs) provide important updates, clarifications and policy statements related to FEMA grant programs. Grantees should familiarize themselves with the relevant publications. Information Bulletins can be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/bulletins/index.shtm>.